

REMARKS

Claims 1-104 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection(s) in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

Applicants would like to thank Examiner Bao Vu for courtesy extended during the interview on March 30, 2005. During the interview, the Examiner agreed that the claims distinguish over the prior art of record. A copy of the Examiner Interview Summary is attached hereto.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-61 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Lethellier (U.S. Pat. No. 6,703,812). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With respect to Claim 1, Lethellier does not show, teach or suggest an output regulator that includes a digital controller that determines a quantity of output phases to generate.

Lethellier describes an embodiment with two output phases. Lethellier mentions that additional phases can be provided. However, Lethellier does not describe a controller that selects the quantity of output phases.

For example, in some implementations the present invention includes a controller of an output regulator that switches between four output phases having a phase interval of 90° and five output phases having a phase interval of 72°. Unlike the controller in Lethellier, Applicant's controller is able to select the quantity of output phases.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants believe that Claim 1 is allowable. Independent Claims 9, 22, 30, 43, and 51 are allowable for at least similar reasons.

Claims 2-8, 10-21, 23-29, 31-42, 44-50 and 52-61 are either directly or indirectly dependent upon Claims 1, 9, 22, 30, 43, and 51, respectively, and are therefore allowable for at least similar reasons.

Claims 62-104 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Woodward (U.S. Pat. No. 5,852,557). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With respect to Claim 62, Woodward does not show, teach or suggest an output regulator that includes a digital controller that determines a quantity of output phases to generate. Woodward does not show, teach or suggest a regulator having a regulated DC output.

Woodward fails to describe a controller that selects the quantity of output phases. Woodward also relates to a DC to AC converter and not to a DC regulator with a regulated DC output.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants believe that Claim 62 is allowable. Independent Claims 68, 76, 82, 90, and 96 are allowable for at least similar reasons.

Claims 63-67, 69-75, 77-81, 83-89, 91-95 and 97-104 are either directly or indirectly dependent upon Claims 62, 68, 76, 82, 90, and 96, respectively, and are therefore allowable for at least similar reasons.

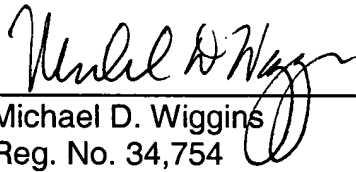
CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests

that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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